

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) was founded in 1959 under the Virginia Park Authorities Act. Currently there are six jurisdictional members: the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church. The NVRPA purpose is to plan, acquire, develop, and operate a system of regional parks for Northern Virginia's citizens as well as to supplement and augment local facilities. Regional parks are distinguished from county and local parks in that they are designed to appeal to and serve the broad-based population of the entire Northern Virginia region, or may be of a size or scope that a single jurisdiction could not undertake alone. The Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Railroad Regional Park, which extends from Alexandria through Arlington, Falls Church, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, is an example of a project that has region-wide characteristics.

The NVRPA now owns 10,315 acres of land, of which more than 7,700 acres are in Fairfax County. The Regional Parks system serves a population of 1.6 million people. Parklands within the system include: Bull Run, Bull Run Marina, Fountainhead, Sandy Run, Pohick Bay, Carlyle House Historic Park, Potomac Overlook, Upton Hill, Algonkian, Red Rock, the W&OD Trail, Occoquan, Hemlock Overlook, Cameron Run, Gateway, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Ball's Bluff, Temple Hall, and Brambleton.

In its conservation role, NVRPA is involved in implementing portions of the Environmental Quality Corridors concept, which defines an open space land system designated for long-term protection in the County. In this role, NVRPA places emphasis on acquisition of the shoreline properties along the Potomac, Bull Run, and Occoquan Rivers, while the Fairfax County Park Authority concentrates on acquiring land along the County's interior stream valleys.

LINK TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan has established a number of objectives and policies in order to:

- ✓ Support the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority in its mission to plan, acquire, develop and maintain regional parks and facilities to serve the population of Northern Virginia.
- ✓ Coordinate with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to provide mutually beneficial active and passive recreation facilities and to develop a regional open space system.

Source: 2003 Edition of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, as amended

CURRENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Since FY 2000, the NVRPA has received \$15,936,310 in support from its regional membership jurisdictions, plus an additional \$1,509,773 in grants, donations and miscellaneous revenue, representing an actual program level of \$17,446,083. Many accomplishments during recent years include: the restoration of the 18th century log cabin at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens; a new picnic/event shelter and golf course renovations at Brambleton Regional Park; installation of a new floating boat dock, and campground and golf course upgrades at Pohick Bay Regional Park; acquisition of land at the park

entrance, addition of boat and RV storage, new specialty pool slides, and shooting center renovations at Bull Run Regional Park; batting cage improvements at Occoquan Regional Park; conversion of the swimming pool to a water park, installation of energy-efficient HVAC system at clubhouse/meeting center, construction of the maintenance facility, and a new paved trail system throughout Algonkian Regional Park; trail widening, bridge deck improvements, and new wayside shelters on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park; addition of a fishing pier and dock renovations at Fountainhead Regional Park; installation of new pool slides, and new event shelter at Cameron Run Regional Park; a new high ropes course, and picnic and meeting shelter at Hemlock Overlook; and on-going renovations and upgrades to existing roads, parking and restroom facilities, and modification of existing features to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A portion of the capital improvement program includes the repair and renovation of existing and aging facilities, such as roof replacements, road repairs, replacement of mechanical systems and similar work to preserve and repair existing facilities. Additional elements of the CIP include land acquisition, expansion of existing facilities, and new features to meet the needs of the region.

Funds from Fairfax County to support the Regional Park Authority's capital improvement program have historically come from General Obligation Bonds. Each of NVRPA's member jurisdictions' share is proportionate to its population percentage in the region. Fairfax County voters approved a bond program in the fall of 2004 which included \$10 million, representing Fairfax County's share of the Authority's capital fund request for park acquisition and development.

NVRPA held a series of public meetings in 2004 to obtain citizen comment on a proposed Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2005 through 2009. The details of the program for fiscal years 2007 through 2009 have yet to be finalized and the following schedule lists only specific projects for FY 2006.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Bull Run Marina (Fairfax County).** \$50,000 for dock and boat storage building addition.
2. **Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$25,000 for shooting center enhancements.
3. **Cameron Run Regional Park (Alexandria).** \$75,000 for miniature golf renovations.
4. **Carlyle House Historic Park (Alexandria).** \$500,000 for fire suppression and HVAC system upgrades and roof replacement.
5. **Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$10,000 for building improvements.
6. **Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$20,000 for garden development.
7. **Occoquan Regional Park (Fairfax County).** \$350,000 for park utilities and infrastructure and new miniature golf course.
8. **Upton Hill Regional Park (Fairfax and Arlington Counties).** \$1,500,000 for major pool renovations and new aquatic play features.
9. **W&OD Railroad Regional Park (City of Falls Church, City of Fairfax, Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties).** \$235,000 for trail resurfacing, widening, and realignment, and for historic railroad station renovations.
10. **Land Acquisition (Region-wide).** \$20,000 for land acquisition administration.
11. **Project Support (Region-wide).** \$1,179,000 for new facilities, renovations, equipment and vehicle replacement. This category includes project management, development and capital equipment purchases not specifically assigned to a particular public use facility or park location.
12. **Roads and Parking (Region-wide).** \$154,000 for improving and renovating gravel and paved surfaces in all parks.

**PROJECT COST SUMMARIES
NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
(\$000's)**

Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Anticipated to be Expended Thru FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Total FY2006-FY2010	Total FY2011-FY2015	Total Project Estimate
1. Bull Run Marina (Fairfax County)	B	C	50					50		50
2. Bull Run Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	25					25		25
3. Cameron Run Regional Park (Alexandria)	B	C	75					75		75
4. Carlyle House Historic Park (Alexandria)	B	C	500					500		500
5. Hemlock Overlook Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	10					10		10
6. Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	20					20		20
7. Occoquan Regional Park (Fairfax County)	B	C	350					350		350
8. Upton Hill Regional Park (Fairfax and Arlington Counties)	B	C	1,500					1,500		1,500
9. W&OD Railroad Regional Park (City of Falls Church, City of Fairfax; Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun Counties)	B	C	235					235		235
10. Land Acquisition (Region-wide)	B	C	20					20		20
11. Project Support (Region-wide)	B	C	1,179					1,179		1,179
12. Roads and Parking (Region-wide)	B	C	154					154		154
TOTAL			\$4,118	\$4,118	\$4,118	\$4,813	\$4,813	\$21,980	\$24,065	\$46,045

Notes:

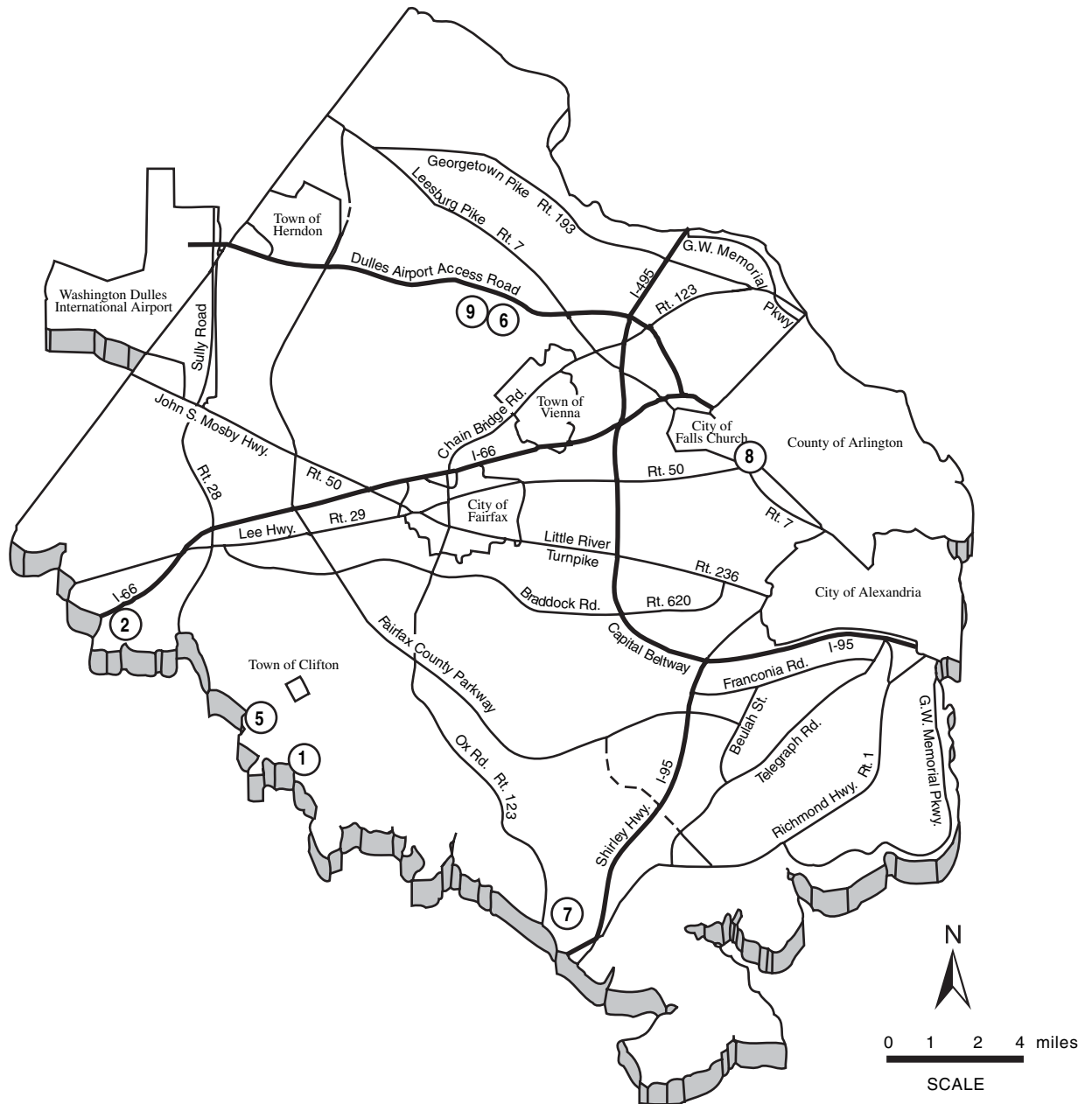
NVRPA funding includes six jurisdictions. Fairfax County's share is projected to be approximately 64% of the total cost.
Projections beyond FY 2006 have yet to be allocated to specific projects.
A "C" in the 'Anticipated to be Expended' column denotes a continuing project.
Numbers in **bold italics** represent funded amounts.

Key: Source of Funds

B Bonds
G General Fund
S State
F Federal
X Other
U Undetermined

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

Location of CIP Projects



1. Bull Run Marina
2. Bull Run Regional Park
5. Hemlock Overlook Regional Park
6. Meadowlark Gardens Regional Park
7. Occoquan Regional Park
8. Upton Hill Regional Park
9. Washington & Old Dominion (W&OD) Railroad Regional Park

Note: Map numbers correspond to the project descriptions in the text and on the summary tables. Only CIP projects with selected fixed sites are shown on the map.